

Abrodictyum elongatum

COMMON NAMES

bristle fern

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Terrestrial tufted fern. **Rhizomes** short, stout, erect, bearing numerous dark brown hairs. **Fronde**s submembranous, ± cartilaginous, dark olive-green, adaxially glossy, surfaces often covered in epiphyllous liverworts and mosses. **Stipes** 50–200 mm long. **Rachises** winged only near apices. **Laminae** 60–150 × deltoid, 3-pinnate. **Primary and secondary pinnae** overlapping, stalked; ultimate segments broad, deeply toothed, the veins forking several times in each. **Sori** sessile, borne in notches of lamina segments, several on each primary pinnae. **Indusia** tubular, mouth slightly flared, receptacle exserted.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily recognised by the erect rhizome, deltoid, dark olive-green fronds (which often support epiphyllous bryophytes), and by the conspicuous tubular indusia bearing brown hair-like, bristly well exserted receptacles.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, South Island, Chatham Islands. Scarce on the Chatham Islands where it is known only from Chatham Island (Rēkohu).

HABITAT

Coastal to montane in closed and open forest and gumland scrub. Usually on semi-shaded mossy clay banks, in overhangs on rock, soil, clay or along stream side banks. Often in rather dry or seasonally dry, semi-shaded sites. This species appears to resent poorly drained habitats.

GENUS

Abrodictyum

FAMILY

Hymenophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Abrodictyum elongatum (A.Cunn.) Ebihara et K.Iwats.

SYNONYMS

Trichomanes elongatum A.Cunn., *Selenodesmium elongatum* (A.Cunn.) Copel.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

NZPCN now follows Ebihara et al. (2006) in recognising *Abrodictyum* as distinct from *Trichomanes*. Although Brownsey & Perrie (2016) rejected this idea, the generic segregation was adopted by the Pteridophyte Phylogeny Group (2016) and is now widely followed throughout the world.



Lowry Kauri Forest, Glen Murray, October 1988. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Long Bay, Coromandel. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult—should not be removed from the wild.

ETYMOLOGY

abrodictyum: From the Greek habros ‘delicate’, ‘pretty’ and diktyon ‘net’, literally “delicate net”

elongatum: Elongate

NVS CODE

ABRELO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the “[Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland](#)” Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Brownsey PJ, Smith–Dodsworth JC. 2000. New Zealand Ferns and Allied Plants. David Bateman, Auckland, NZ. 168 p.

Brownsey PJ, Perrie LR. 2016. Hymenophyllaceae. In: Breitwieser I, Heenan PB, Wilton AD. Flora of New Zealand - Ferns and Lycophytes. Fascicle 15. Manaaki Whenua Press, Lincoln, NZ. <https://doi.org/10.7931/B1QP4Z>.

Ebihara A, Dubuisson, J-Y, Iwatsuki K, Hennequin S, Ito M. 2006. A taxonomic revision of the Hymenophyllaceae. *Blumea* 51: 2–57. <https://doi.org/10.3767/000651906X622210>.

PPG 1: The Pteridophyte Phylogeny Group 2016. A community-derived classification for extant lycophytes and ferns. *Journal of Systematics and Evolution* 54: 563–603. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jse.12229>.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (21 April 2011). Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith–Dodsworth (2000).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/abrodictyum-elongatum/>

PDF DATE

08 June 2026